

Message Text

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SUBJ: FERNANDEZ MALDONADO'S DIATRIBE AGAINST APRA

1. SPEAKING JULY 24 AT CEREMONIES NEAR PIURA MARKING THE 6TH ANNIVERSARY OF AGRARIAN REFORM ("CAMPESENO DAY"), ENERGY AND MINES MINISTER JORGE FERNANDEZ MALDONADO LASHED OUT VEHEMENTLY AT APRA, CALLING IT "THE PRINCIPAL ENEMY OF THE PERUVIAN REVOLUTION ALONG WITH ITS IMPERIALIST OVERLORDS".

2. RECALLING FEBRUARY 5 ANTI-GOVERNMENT RIOTS, FERNANDEZ SAID THAT APRISTA HATRED OF ARMED FORCES WAS EVIDENT IN THE HORDES LED BY PARTY ACTIVISTS, WHO DESTROYED THE MILITARY CLUB, BURNING THE SACRED INSIGNIAS OF THE NATION AND DISFIGURING THE BEAUTIFUL SYMBOLS AND EFFIGIES OF THE HEROES AND MARTYRS OF THE GLORIOUS ARMY OF PERU, IN AN ACT THAT WE WHO WEAR THE SACRED MILITARY AND REVOLUTIONARY UNIFORM OF PERU WILL NEVER FORGET, NOR WILL THE WORKERS OF THE NATION." FERNANDEZ EQUATED AN ATTACK ON THE ARMED FORCES WITH AN ATTACK ON THE REVOLUTION AND THE PERUVIAN PEOPLE. HE CALLED FOR THE EXPOSURE OF THOSE WHO PROTECT AND ENCOURAGE APRA FROM WITHIN AND WITHOUT THE REVOLUTION, WARNING THAT APRA HAS GREAT POWER TO INFILTRATE THE REVOLUTION. HE ALSO MILDLY CRITICIZED "A CERTAIN SECTOR OF VANGUARDIA REVOLUCIONARIA" FOR WANTING TO GO TOO FAR TO THE LEFT.

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3. COMMENT. FERNANDEZ' SURPRISING, INTEMPERATE ATTACK ON APRA WAS NOT AT ALL ECHOED BY SEVERAL OTHER GOP MINISTERS WHO SPOKE AT CAMPESINO DAY GATHERINGS THROUGHOUT PERU. AT A TIME WHEN THE GOP IS SUPPOSEDLY CONCERNED ABOUT COMMUNIST INFILTRATION, FERNANDEZ CHOSE TO POINT THE FINGER AT APRA INSTEAD. IN SO DOING, HE DEMONSTRATED WHY HE IS PERHAPS ONE OF THE FAVORITE MINISTERS OF THE PERUVIAN COMMUNIST PARTY. THE GOP-OWNED LA CRONICA, WHICH THE PRESIDENCY CONTROLS, AND THE PRO-COMMUNIST EXPRESO ALSO SHOWED THEIR BIASES AS THEY BANNER HEADLINED FERNANDEZ' WORDS. THE REST OF THE PRESS EMPHASIZED AGRICULTURE MINISTER GALLEGOS' SPEECH AT NAZCA. GALLEGOS DECLARED THAT LAND REFORM IS IRREVERSIBLE.

4. A PERUVIAN JOURNALIST CLAIMED THAT FERNANDEZ' WORDS REPRESENT A CHALLENGE TO PRIME MINISTER MORALES BERMUDEZ, WHO AT THE JUNE 7 FLAG DAY CEREMONIES URGED THE ARMY TO BE VIGILANT AGAINST FOREIGN INFLUENCES. ACCORDING TO THE JOURNALIST, THESE WORDS WERE DIRECTED AT THE PERUVIAN COMMUNIST PARTY WHICH WAS PRESENT EN MASSE AT THE FLAG DAY CEREMONIES. HOWEVER, THE JOURNALIST'S INTERPRETATION CONTRADICTS REPORTS THAT THE GOP RADICALS, INCLUDING FERNANDEZ MALDONADO, SUPPORT MORALES BERMUDEZ. WHATEVER THE CASE, FERNANDEZ CERTAINLY CURRIED PCP FAVOR, REMINDING THE ARMY THAT APRA HAS BEEN ITS TRADITIONAL ENEMY. SOME THINK THAT APRA WOULD LIKE TO ERASE THIS IMAGE AND WORK WITH MORALES BERMUDEZ. AS USUAL IN PERU, CONTRADICTION PREVAILS.
DEAN

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